

REASONS

Humbly offered for Preventing

116 m. 14
110
The Exportation of Wooll,

373

And for Encouraging

A FREE TRADE

I N

English Woollen Manufacture

T O

Flanders, Brabant, Zealand, Holland, West and East Friezland, Germany, Switzerland, and Hungary.

Every Nation beyond the Seas encourage the Exportation of their own Commodities, and their Markets are open and free for all Buyers, because they enrich themselves thereby. And certainly it is the Interest of this Nation to prohibit the Exportation of Wooll, and to invite all Persons to Buy and Export the Woollen Manufacture of *England*; for that a Pound of Wooll, when wrought, yields ten times the value of the Wooll, and many Thousand Families are maintained thereby, there being many several Trades whose livelihood depend upon the Woollen Manufacture (*viz.*) The Washer, Shearer, Picker, Comber, Spinner, Knitter, Weaver, Cloth-worker, Tucker or Dresser, Fuller, Drawer, Napper, Kalenderer, Dyer, Setter, Presser, and Packer.

Several Statutes have prohibited the Exportation of Wooll unmanufactured for the better setting on work the poor People of this Kingdom, and to the intent the benefit of working the same into Cloth, Searges, Stuffs, Bays, Kerfies, Blankets, Hats, and Stockings, may come to the Subjects of this Kingdom, and not to Foreigners. For the same Reason the obstructing the Exportation of those Commodities, when wrought, is injurious to the Crown, and destructive to the Subject; for it is plain and obvious, that the hindrance of the Exportation of the woollen Manufacture prevents the consumption of Wooll in this Kingdom, and brings down the price thereof, and empoverishes the Subject, so that he is not able to pay his Rent; and consequently the mischief falls on the Nobility and Gentry of this Kingdom; and the more woollen Manufacture is Exported, the greater will be the King's Revenue, and the more Ships employed. Therefore, and for the Reasons following, the *Hamborough* Company, who pretend to have the sole Trade in Cloth, and all other woollen Manufactures to the places abovementioned, are destructive to the Trade of this Kingdom.

The *Hamborough* Company in a few years last past have been the occasion of the loss of vast Summes of Money to this Kingdom, for they have arrested the Ships and Goods of all Persons not Free of their Company, by Process out of the Admiralty Court, for endeavouring to send Cloth, Searges, and Stockings to *Germany*.

They have also Summoned others before the Privy-Council, and caused them to be imprisoned, and others they have sued at Law, and in the High-Court of Chancery, for Trading in the woollen Manufacture of this Kingdom, and have by such means put so great a stop to the Trade here, that in *Silesia*, and other parts beyond the Seas, they have learnt to make Cloth themselves, and do make several Thousand Cloths in a Year; and they many times attempt to Import Cloth into *England*. And this hath been occasioned by the *Hamborough* Company's putting a stop to the Trade here.

The *Germans*, and others, are now, very curious, and will have Cloth, Stuffs, and Stockings, sent them according to their Patterns, and will not go to *Hamborough* to buy, but send their Patterns into *England*, where they can be supplied with all varieties much sooner, and at less charge.

Those of the *Hamborough* Company send all their Cloath to *Hamborough* and *Dort*, where all Persons must come to buy, which they will not do, by reason those places are far distant from the habitations of the buyers; and when they come there perhaps cannot be supplied according to their Patterns; so that if they cannot have Cloth, Stuffs, and Stockings immediately from *England* according to their Patterns, they will and do buy Cloth made in parts beyond the Seas, which hath already much impoverisht the Clothiers of this Kingdom.

The *Hamborough* Company do not Trade in a joint Stock, as other Companies do, but every Man Trades for himself with his own Stock; and all persons free of that Company must take an Oath not to send their Cloth to any Towns beyond the Seas, but *Hamborough* and *Dort*; and to observe all Orders by them made, and to be made, so that they do as much as in them lies, obstruct a Free Trade, and, if not prevented, will in all probability ruine most of the Clothiers and Dealers in Cloth of this Kingdom.